

Message Text

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73

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 AID-20 DRC-01 /129 W

----- 126983

R 311020Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5753

INFO AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS GABORONE 1194

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, BC

SUBJ: CALL FOR ELECTIONS

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF AN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT BROADCAST OVER RADIO BOTSWANA DURING THE EVENING ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWS SERVICE ON AUGUST 30.

2. QUOTE: THE PRESIDENT SIR SERETSE KHAMA DISSOLVED PARLIAMENT TODAY. HIS GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY WHICH CONTAINS THE PROCLAMATION ANNOUNCING THE DISSOLUTION WAS PUBLISHED THIS AFTERNOON.

3. SINCE IT IS A CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT THAT A GENERAL ELECTION MUST BE HELD WITHIN 60 DAYS OF THE DISSOLUTION THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS ANNOUNCED THIS AFTERNOON THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD ISSUE WRITS OF ELECTION ON THE 6TH OF SEPT., 1974. THE WRITS WHICH ARE ADDRESSED TO THE RETAINING OFFICERS FOR THE 32 PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES CALL UPON THE OFFICERS TO RECEIVE NOMINATIONS OF CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO PARLIAMENT ON FRIDAY, UNCLASSIFIED

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SEPT. 27, 1974 BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 9 A.M. AND 1 P.M. AND

2:39 P.M. AND 5 P.M. AT CONSTITUENCY HEADQUARTERS.

4. IF AT THE CLOSE OF NOMINATIONS IN EACH CONSTITUENCY ONLY ONE CANDIDATE HAS BEEN NOMINATED HE OR SHE WILL BE DECLARED ELECTED.

IF MORE THAN ONE CANDIDATE IS NOMINATED A POLL WILL BE HELD TO DETERMINE THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE.

5. POLLING WILL TAKE PLACE ON SATURDAY, OCT. 26, 1974. THE DAY FIXED FOR RECEIPT OF NOMINATIONS FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT IS SATURDAY, SEPT. 21, 1974.

6. THE RETAINING OFFICER FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IS THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND HE WILL RECEIVE THE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATIONS AT THE HIGH COURT AT LOBATSE BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 10 A.M. AND 1 P.M. AND 2 P.M. AND 5 P.M. ON SEPT. 21, 1974. EVERY PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE MUST BE NOMINATED BY A PROPOSAL AND A SECONDER SUPPORTED BY NOT LESS THAN 998 SUPPORTERS.

7. PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES MAY INDICATE ON THEIR NOMINATION PAPERS WHICH PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE THEY SUPPORT. IF 17 OR MORE SUPPORTERS OF ONE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ARE ELECTED TO PARLIAMENT THAT CANDIDATE IS DULY ELECTED AS PRESIDENT. IF NO CANDIDATE HAS 17 OR MORE SUPPORTERS IN PARLIAMENT THE PRESIDENT IS ELECTED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE ELECTED MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

8. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS ARE HELD AT THE SAME TIME AS PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS AND THE MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND LANDS WILL ISSUE ELECTION INSTRUCTIONS ON THE 6TH OF SEPT., 1974 ADDRESSED TO THE RETAINING OFFICER FOR 176 POLLING DISTRICTS. EACH POLLING DISTRICT WILL RETURN ONE MEMBER TO THE TOWN OR DISTRICT COUNCIL OF THE AREA IN WHICH THEY ARE. THE NOMINATION AND POLLING DATE AND POLLING STATIONS ARE THE SAME AS THOSE FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. NOMINATIONS ARE ON FRIDAY, 27 SEPT. AND POLLING IS ON SATURDAY, OCT. 26.

9. THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS HAS PREPARED GUIDES FOR PARLIAMENTARY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT CANDIDATES AND THESE WILL BE DISTRIBUTED BY POLITICAL PARTIES, DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS AND DISTRICT OFFICERS NEXT WEEK. END QUOTE.

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